12. सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के लिए सप्लाई किए जाने वाले खाद्यान्नों की क्वालिटी में सुधार लाने हेतु प्रयास किए जाएं ।

13. राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों को इस बात का विकल्प दिया जाए कि वे मासिक आबंटन की वर्तमान प्रणाली के बजाए तिमाही आधार पर अपना आबंटन ले सकें ।

Transport contract to specific agency in Mahanadi Coal Field Limited

*116. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal transport contract is being given to a specific agency in Mahanadi Coal Field Limited in Orissa;

(b) whether the local contractors who intend to transport coal from the mines to the pithead are being deprived of such facility;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to remove this irregularity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The contracts of transportation of coal are given after following the prescribed procedure of inviting open tenders, in which the local contractors are given full opportunity to participate. Cases of ex-servicemen's transport companies/cooperatives duly sponsored by the Directorate General of Resettlement. Ministry of Defence are also considered..

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Land acquisition for Coffee plantation

*117. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total land acquired in Kalahandi, Koraput and Phulbani district of Orissa for Coffee plantation:

(b) whether due compensation has been given to the farmers particularly: tribals whose land has been acquired;

(c) if not, the steps taken to make the payment expeditiously; and

(d) the details of additional hectares of land proposed to be brought under coffee plantation in that part of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Coffee plantations have been developed on a total area of 1407 hectares in the Districts of Kalahandi, Koraput and Phulbani in Orissa, partly under the State Government Agencies and partly by the individuals. Coffee Board has been offering all the technical assistance and support for development of coffee plantations in these areas. However, land acquisition is a State subject and is dealt with by the State Government. Neither the Coffee Board nor the Government of India have acquired any land for Coffee plantation in Orissa. Therefore, the question of paying compensation by the Central Government does not arise.

For the Eighth Plan period, the Coffee Board has envisaged an expansion target of 5000 hectares for all the non-traditional areas including Orissa. However the Coffee Board has not received any proposal for expansion of coffee cultivation from the State Government of Orissa.